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WAVES

One by one upon my shore
  The little waves are laid,
Each one a new and perfect thing
  Which the sea has made.

From that which is forever old
  They come, forever young,
The latest, faintest echoes
  Of the song the sea has sung.

They echo it in whispers.
  I listen ceaselessly,
For fear the echoes die away
  And I should hear the sea.

BEAUTY

Why did you stop me, God, that day,
  Upon my rutted road of living?
Why might I not have kept my way
  And never known your ruthless giving?

I should not walk so burdened now,
  Nor be alone in this new land,
If all there is of beauty in the world
  You had not pressed into my hand.

Louise Townsend Nicholl